



SHEEP SHEET

by Dr. Lyle G. McNeal, Executive Director, Sheep & Wool Specialist

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1st Month After End of Breeding:

- ◆ Individually inspect each ram for disease, unsoundness, and general health.
- ◆ Immediately cull those showing evidence of any communicable disease, such as epididymitis, causing permanent damage.
- ◆ Isolate other sick or crippled bucks for special treatment. As they recover, they can be returned to the healthy ram flock.
- ◆ If the rams have become thin from heavy use, feed as suggested in any sheep nutrition reference.
- ◆ Worm all rams (if on pasture).

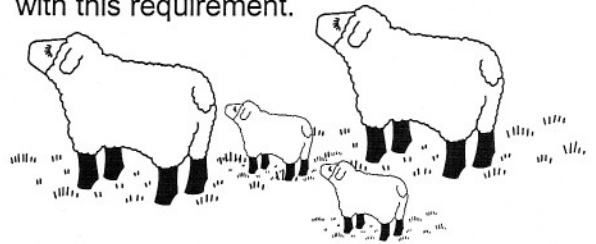
2 to 6 Months After Breeding:

- ◆ After they have regained condition, sell or trade those healthy, fertile rams that no longer fit your breeding program or environment. They should still have value for a pasture or hand breeding program.
- ◆ Maintain nutrition by providing a maintenance ration. Ram lambs and yearlings may require special handling and feeding while still growing.

Calendar of Ram Care

Sheepdex R-1

- ◆ Control external and internal parasites by spraying, dipping, pour-on, drenching, or pilling as recommended by your local veterinarian or extension agent.
- ◆ Vaccinate all previously non-inoculated rams with the usual Clostridial perfringens, C & D; Tetanus, or available 7-way or 8-way shots. Give these rams their second shot, and all other rams their annual booster shot, 4-6 weeks later. Check with your local veterinarian regarding the practices and local epididymitis prevention and/or control. However, it would be strongly recommended to have all of one's adult breeding rams serologically tested for the primary organism responsible for ram epididymitis, *Brucella ovis*, organism. Here again your local vet can assist with this requirement.



Last Month Before Breeding:

- ◆ Bring all rams into good nutritional condition. Feed a grain-roughage ration if necessary.
- ◆ Re-examine each ram individually for any condition that could affect breeding soundness.

For more information write The Navajo Sheep Project, Inc. PO Box 4454, Logan, UT 84323-4454. The Navajo Sheep Project is a registered non-profit Utah corporation.

A. Palpate the scrotum and testicles in order to detect any possible disorders of the reproductive organs.

B. Semen test those with questionable palpation results, and other rams not already proven as breeders. Re-evaluate rams that fail the first semen test 3 to 4 weeks later, possibly after priming them by putting them with or near ovulating ewes.

- ◆ Cull all rams showing any evidence of epididymitis or rams that fail the semen test.
- ◆ Purchase quality rams to fill your required complement of bucks.
- ◆ Shear, or partially shear, all rams in long wool.
- ◆ Treat for internal and external parasites.

During the Breeding Season:

- ◆ Rotate rams for rest and reconditioning when warranted.
- ◆ Provide supplemental feed if needed.
- ◆ Provide shade where possible if breeding is during hot weather.
- ◆ Watch for and replace any ram becoming unsound for breeding.
- ◆ In single-sire (one ram) flocks, use a marking harness or other system to indicate failure to breed or settle ewes.

